

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 18-20 and 22-27 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of the claims is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and comments presented herein.

Applicants thank the Examiner for meeting with Applicants' representatives on August 8, 2002. As noted in the Interview Summary, the substance of the present amendment was discussed therein.

No new matter is introduced. Applicants submit that the amended and newly presented claims are supported by the specification. In particular, support for the recitation in the claims regarding the sequential steps in the method can be found in the specification at least at pages 16-21, in examples 1 and 2, where the steps are carried out sequentially.

In particular, it is believed that this amendment further distinguishes the BucCaron reference, cited in the Office Action mailed March 26, 2002. The BucCaron reference does not teach or suggest a separate differentiation step at all, much less a differentiation step occurring subsequent to a proliferation step. As previously argued, BucCaron does not teach or suggest any method that would result in a cell culture comprising differentiated dopaminergic cells.

Summary

In summary, Applicants believe that each of claims 1-11, 18-20 and 22-27 are in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332.5300

Date: 9/23/02



Wendy M. Seffrood
Name: Wendy M. Seffrood
Reg. No.: 52,205

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (AMENDED) A method of generating a cell culture comprising dopaminergic neuron cells, said method comprising the sequential steps of:
 - a. proliferating precursor cells, said step of proliferating comprising:
 - i. incubating a suspension of said precursor cells in a proliferating medium which includes basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) to form proliferated precursor cells; and subsequently
 - b. differentiating said precursor cells, said step of differentiating comprising:
 - i. incubating said precursor cells in an incubation vessel which contains differentiation medium in a manner effective to form a reaggregation of differentiated dopaminergic neuron cells that is not adhered to any surface of the incubation vessel, wherein the differentiation medium includes ascorbic acid;

wherein said precursor cells comprise fetal central nervous system cells.